

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-4 (canceled).

5. (currently amended) A service providing system comprising:

ticket examiner; and

an information processing apparatus interconnected with said ticket examiner through a network for providing a service in compensation for a price,

wherein said ticket examiner isolates a service providing location from a service-free location,

wherein said ticket examiner comprises:

communication means provided on a surface of said ticket examiner and based on a non-contact, contact scheme, or conduction of an electric signal conducts communication with a user medium which is mobile; and

means for collecting information and for settling a service provided through said communication means based on information stored in said user medium,

wherein said information processing apparatus comprises:

means connected to a financial institution through said network for decrypting said information on said settling means to a plain text, evaluating validity of said information on said settling means, making a settlement based on said evaluation through said financial institution and said communication means, and selecting a

service to be provided and preparing for providing the service to a user after settlement, and

wherein said ticket examiner further comprises:

person sensing means equipped therein,

means for recognizing based on a person sensed by said person sensing means and said user medium sensed by said communication means that a user who should receive a service exists at said ticket examiner, and

means for issuing a ticket to said user of user medium for receipt of a service ~~on a side of a~~ at a point of entry into said service providing location.

6. (previously presented) A service providing system according to claim 5, wherein said ticket issuing means issues, upon entering of said user, a ticket for receipt of a service, and upon existing of said user, takes away said ticket or refers to or takes away information stored in said user medium.

Claim 7 (canceled).

8. (previously presented) A service providing system according to claim 5, wherein said non-contact communication in said ticket examiner is implemented using two antennas, one of which forms a long distance service area, and another of which forms a nearby service area.

9. (previously presented) A service providing system according to claim 8, wherein said another antenna forming the nearby service area is disposed on a surface which a user approaches, and said nearby service area formed by the antenna for irradiating and receiving electric waves to and from the user extends over a range defined by a wave accessible distance and audible distance, said range having a radius equal to an average distance to a position at which the user is located,

wherein said one antenna covers both of said service providing location and said service-free location as the service area,

wherein said ticket examiner communicates with a user medium present in either of said locations and refers to information stored in said user medium through said one antenna,

wherein said ticket examiner tries to communicate with said user medium using said another antenna to detect arrival of said user, and

wherein if detection of the arrival of said user is successful, said ticket examiner successively refers to information stored in said user medium through said one antenna or said another antenna.

10. (currently amended) A service providing system according to claim 6, wherein said ticket examiner further comprises:

a gate, such that at least one of an entrance way into said service providing location and an exit way from said service-free location for the user is blocked by said gate when the information on the settling means of the user is unauthorized.

11. (currently amended) A service providing system according to claim 5, wherein said information processing apparatus further comprises:

means for encrypting contents communicated by said communication means for transmission, and for decrypting received contents to a plain text; and

means for storing in or printing on said ticket plain text for receipt of a service at a point of entry into said service providing location.

Claims 12 and 13 (canceled).

14. (previously presented) A service providing system according to claim 5, further comprising:

means for determining whether said user normally receives a service based on a service receiving ticket or information stored within said user medium, position information or identification information on a first ticket examiner through which the user has entered for admission and position information or identification information on a second ticket examiner at which the service receiving ticket or information stored in the user's medium being entered is taken away; and

means responsive to a determination indicating abnormality from said determining means for blocking passing of the user from the service providing location to the service-free location.

15. (currently amended) A service providing system according to claim 5, wherein upon establishing communication with a user medium by said communication means, said communication means of the ticket examiner transmits identification information provided for each user and a synchronizing clock for synchronizing said user medium with said ticket examiner to the user medium.

16. (currently amended) A service providing system according to claim 8, wherein said communication means transmits a request for communication to ~~a~~ said user medium using said another antenna sequentially in order of detection when said communication means detects a plurality of users for communication through said one antenna.

17. (new) A service providing system according to claim 5, wherein said ticket issuing means issues a paper ticket.

18. (new) A service providing system according to claim 5, wherein said ticket issuing means, after said settling, generates printing data and magnetic recording data for said ticket.

19. (new) A service providing system according to claim 18, wherein said ticket issuing means checks whether a ticket is entered into a ticket inlet of said ticket examiner, and if not entered, writes said printing data and said magnetic recording data on a slip of paper and issues the slip of paper as a ticket, and said

issuing means calls said user medium, and if a response is received from said user medium, writes said printing data and said magnetic recording data on a slip of paper and issues the slip of paper as a ticket.